

News from U.S. Rep. John Spratt (D-SC)

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Spratt Statement on the President's Environmental Protection Budget

WASHINGTON – U.S. Rep. John Spratt (D-SC) issued the following statement on the President's environmental protection budget. Today, the President is speaking on Earth Day in Wells, Maine. He is also speaking at the White House at the Environmental Youth Awards ceremony.

"Today, the President touts his administration's environmental record in observation of Earth Day. His rhetoric may honor this day, but his budget clearly does not.

"Under the President's budget, environmental programs would be cut two years in a row for the first time since 1981. Even by 2009, the President's environmental funding level will still be \$2.1 billion below the 2004 enacted level. Simply stated, the President's budget backs off the federal commitment to environmental protection.

"The Bush Administration claims to support clean water, but despite huge unmet needs, its budget cuts water infrastructure funding by over 30 percent. Two years ago, the President hailed what he described as landmark brownfields reform legislation. This year, his budget cuts funding for brownfields revitalization. Three years ago, the President promised to fully fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund. This year, his budget raids the fund to pay expenses unrelated to conservation funding.

"The President's budget turns its back on conservation and bipartisan environmental programs."

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